

REMARKS

Responsive to the aforementioned Office letter, the applicant has corrected the specification to obviate those informalities noted by the Examiner. In addition, the applicant has amended the claims to obviate all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and, in addition, to patentably distinguish over the prior art. The Examiner's action in bringing to attention any informalities under 35 U.S.C. 112 is sincerely appreciated.

With regard to the rejection of the claims on the basis of the Christle Patent taken in combination with the Hsieh Patent is respectfully traversed. First of all, dealing with Hsieh, this patent only discloses an adjustable golf club handle arrangement. Beyond that Hsieh is essentially silent as to the unique concept presented in the instant application.

The primary reference relied upon by the Examiner is that of the Christle Patent. This reference discloses a device which is entirely different from that claimed in the instant application. First of all, Christle is dealing with a golf ball retrieving apparatus. In contrast, the subject matter of the present invention deals with a game. Secondly, Christle relies upon a rather complicated linkage arrangement which is adapted to engage the ball so that the latter may be picked up. Admittedly, in the present invention the ball can be picked up, but it is only temporarily retained. In contrast, the device in the Christle Patent will hold

that ball until it is mechanically released by release of the linkage.

It can be observed that the device in the present invention relies upon a friction fit of the ball within the cup or cavity thus formed. In the present invention the hemispherical scoop portion will removably retain the golf ball by a friction fit. Again, and as indicated above, Christle relies upon a linkage mechanism which engages the ball and precludes the ball from removal until the linkage mechanism is raised.

Each of the claims in the application have been tightened up to recite that the concave hemispheric scoop forms a pocket sized so that it can removably retain the golf ball both snugly but, nevertheless, removably and, moreover, this retention is by friction fit. It is urged that there is no reference of record which discloses this unique combination. It is therefore believed that each of the claims in the application now patentably distinguish over the prior art of record and favorable reconsideration and allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Dated: July 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

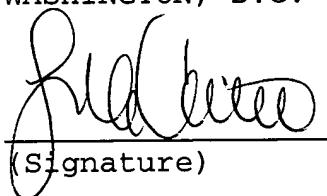


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